

Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

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FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8486

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS OUAGADOUGOU 1872

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, EAID, UV

SUBJECT: CEAO REQUEST FOR USG ASSISTANCE

REF: OUAGA 1167, 0487

DEPT PASS AID/W

1. OVER PERIOD OF PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM NEW OUAGA-BASED COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST (CEAO). TO DATE, WE HAVE RECEIVED FOLLOWING THREE REQUESTS FROM SECGEN CHEICK FALL: A) SCHOLARSHIPS FOR BUSINESS SCHOOL TRAINING (MARCH 18); B) ASSIGNMENT OF TWO AMERICAN EXPERTS -- RURAL ECONOMY AND ANIMAL PRODUCTION -- TO CEAO SECRETARIAT FOR PERIOD OF 30 MONTHS (MAY 8); C) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PREPARE CEREALS PRODUCTION AND MARKETING STUDY (JUNE 25).

2. EMBASSY HAS FORWARDED REQUESTS TO ADO/NIAMEY FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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EVALUATION AND/OR DECISION. WOULD APPRECIATE RESPONSE

FROM ADO ON STATUS THESE REQUESTS.

3. BELIEVE THESE REQUESTS RAISE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION REGARDING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CEAO. OUR POSITION HERE HAS BEEN TO OFFER LOW-KEY ENCOURAGEMENT WITHOUT MAKING ANY FIRM COMMITMENTS. CEAO IS STILL NEW AND IS JUST STARTING TO GET ON ITS FEET. SECRETARIAT IS NOW LOCATED IN TEMPORARY QUARTERS AND STAFFING IS NEARLY COMPLETE. WORK TO DATE HAS BEEN ON TECHNICAL LEVEL WITH FOCUS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF SYSTEM WHICH WILL ACCORD TRADE PREFERENCE TO MEMBER STATES. ONE INDICATION OF PROBLEMS FACING CEAO IS DIFFICULTY GETTING MEMBER STATES TO AGREE ON COMMON STATISTICAL NOMENCLATURE. WHILE FALL APPEARS TO BE ENERGETIC, ABLE SEC GEN, HE FACES PROBLEM OF TRYING TO GET MEMBER STATES GEARED UP FOR KEY CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING LATER THIS YEAR.

4. ANOTHER PROBLEM WHICH MUST BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IS CEAO'S RELATIONSHIP WITH EXISTING REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. IT APPEARS AT PRESENT SOME OF CEAO'S ACTIVITIES MAY DUPLICATE WHAT IS ALREADY BEING DONE BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, REQUEST FOR CEREALS PRODUCTION AND MARKETING STUDY CLEARLY FALLS WITHIN DOMAIN OF ENTENTE CEREALS PROGRAM.

5. BELIEVE BEST POLICY FOR TIME BEING WOULD BE TO WAIT AT LEAST UNTIL CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING TO SEE HOW CEAO ORGANIZATION WILL DEVELOP BEFORE RESPONDING TO ANY FUTURE REQUESTS. AS INTERIM MEASURE, PERHAPS PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS AFRICAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OR WORLD TRADE INSTITUTE COULD OFFER ASSISTANCE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: APPRECIATE WASHINGTON'S VIEWS AND GUIDANCE ON HOW TO RESPOND TO ANY FUTURE REQUESTS FROM CEAO. GRAHAM

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